

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03863 112248Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----082436 112256Z /15

O 112208Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2202
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

DCJESRBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE 1172
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 3863

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, NU, CS
SUBJ: CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 229639

1. AS REPORTED IN EARLIFR MESSAGES, CARAZO THIS MORNING REPEATED HIS "DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE EFFORT (CA INITIATIVE) MOVING, HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT MIGHT PROVE TO BE". WHETHER THIS THEN TOOK INTO ACCOUNT FULLY THE REPORTED DECISION OF GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR TO DROP OUT, IF THIS HAS BEEN PUT TO HIM IN EXACTLY THOSE ABSOLUTE TERMS BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, IS NOT CLEAR. GIVEN THIS AND THE FAILURE OF ANY INITIAL CONTACTS OF HIS "EMISSARIES" TO PRODUCE ANYTHING SO FAR, I QUERIED HIM AGAIN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS THIS AFTERNOON, SEPT 11, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTTEL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03863 112248Z

2. CARAZO BEGAN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE SITUATION IS BECOMING MORE COMPLICATED AND MORE DESPERATE EACH DAY THAT PASSES. HIS BEST INFORMATION IS THAT THE NEXT TWO WEEKS MAY WELL SEE A STEP-UP IN VIOLENCE IN NICARAGUA AND WHERE THAT LEAVES ANY ADDITIONAL ROLE FOR THE OAS OR HIS CA INITIATIVE IS NOT CLEAR. HE HAS CALLED IN NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR ZACAYO AGAIN AND STRESSED THE URGENT NEED

FOR THE GON TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE SOLUTION HAS TO START THERE, AND SOON, AND THAT COSTA RICA IS STILL WILLING TO COOPERATE IF THAT WILL HELP.

3. THIS, CARAZO BELIEVES, IS NOW THE KEY TO ANY USEFUL CA COLLABORATION. HE HAS APPARENTLY HEARD FROM HONDURAS, AS WELL AS GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR, AND THE THREE HAVE ADOPTED THE COMMON DO NOTHING NOW LINE REPORTED BY AMBASSADOR BOSTER. HE BELIEVES THAT STANCE RESULTS DIRECTLY FROM PRESSURE BY SOMOZA, A CONCLUSION NOT INCONSISTENT WITH PARA 5 OF GUATEMALA 5354). CARAZO DOES NOT ACCEPT THIS AS A FINAL POSITION, HOWEVER, AND MAINTAINS THE BELIEF THAT ONCE THE OTHER CA LEADERS CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY WHAT CAN BE DONE (IF SOMOZA SHOWS ANY GIVE, I PRESUME), THEY WILL GET BACK ON BOARD.

4. REPLY TO PARA 2 REFTEL BEING SENT SEPARATELY.
WEISSMAN

SECRET

NNN

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